

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 58
By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to honor the Tennesseans who have been crowned National Champions at the Walnut Valley Music Festival.

WHEREAS, It is proper for this General Assembly to honor those individuals whose proficiency in craft or trade has brought about national accolades; and

WHEREAS, The art of creating music has long been an important part of humanity, serving as a voice for those traits that make us truly human, preserving our history, and forging bridges between different cultures; and

WHEREAS, Recognition should be given to this State's musicians who have been recognized as National Champions, eight of whom will be honored by the Traditional Music Resource Center on March 8, 2003, at Walker Valley High School in Cleveland, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Recognized as National Champions after their respective victories at the Walnut Valley Music Festival in Winfield, Kansas, these gifted Tennesseans have proven their incredible talents by playing one of the traditional acoustic instruments, a group consisting of the guitar, banjo, mandolin, mountain dulcimer, and autoharp; and

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WHEREAS, This State is unique in having among its citizens' National Champions in each of the five traditional acoustic instruments, a feat which pays homage to Tennessee's long and colorful musical history and to the importance of music in its citizens lives; and

WHEREAS, The following individuals have served to make Tennessee proud by claiming the National Championship in their respective instruments: Steve Kaufman, Roy Curry, Mike Whitehead, Cody Kilby, and Adam Wright on the flatpick guitar; Andrea Zonn, Ed Carnes, Randy Howard, Andy Leftwich, and Bethany Dick on the fiddle; Randal Morton, Gary Davis, James McKinney, Mike Snider, Eric Welty, Jonathan Jones, and Sonny Smith on the banjo; Cody Kilby on the mandolin; Tim Simek, Larry Conger, Lee Rowe, and Lloyd Frank Wright on the mountain dulcimer; Bill Mize, Pete Huttlinger, and Richard Smith on the fingerstyle guitar; and Ron Wall on the autoharp; and

WHEREAS, A collection of these National Champions will gather together in Cleveland at the Traditional Music Center on March 8, 2003, which will be celebrated as the "Night of Champions". An afternoon of musical workshops will precede an evening of memorable music-making featuring eight National Champions hailing from Tennessee (Roy Curry, Cody Kilby, Andy Leftwich, Bethany Dick, Sonny Smith, Larry Conger, Lee Rowe, and Richard Smith), with Thom Bresh, the 2001 World Thumb and Finger Picking Guitar Champion, leading the ceremonies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we acknowledge the superior talent of these eight National Champions, congratulate them on their many accomplishments, and praise them for the gift of music they have selflessly offered to the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we honor and commend the Traditional Music Center of Cleveland on presenting the "Night of Champions" for the entertainment and edification of music fans from across the region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.